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The challenges of establishing a systemized STEMI program in low to middle income countries: The philippine experience

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Acute Coronary Syndromes, particularly ST segment elevation Myocardial Infarction is the highest cause of morbidity and mortality among cardiovascular diseases both in developed and developing countries. Primary angioplasty is the gold standard of therapeutic care in STEMI. ESC and AHA recommendations indicate that there is a significant decrease in morbidity and mortality with door-to-open artery time of less than minutes. The ASEAN population (Southeast Asia) has a trend towards increasing incidence of coronary artery disease. Singapore, Thailand, recently Vietnam have adequate government support/insurance to cover for primary angioplasty expenses. These countries have established STEMI systems in place so more citizens of their respective countries are able to avail of the primary angioplasty as treatment for STEMI. The Philippines, with a population of 102 million, the country being an archipelago, as a nation, has a very challenging geographical, economical demographics in terms of formulating a STEMI program both in metropolitan and rural areas. These factors, together with lack of government support and sufficient insurance coverage has created a big challenge to health care providers in terms of providing both efficient thrombolytic therapy and a systemized nationwide STEMI program. The author, and the national society of interventional cardiologists, are realizing these needs, spearheaded institutional programs within their hospitals to create STEMI programs and follow the 'hubs' and 'spokes' model. The author's own institution, St. Luke's Medical Center Global City in Metro Manila initiated the 1st STEMI program with 24/7 capability. The door to balloon time decreased from 156 mins to 86 minutes after a year. The national society of interventionists are creating a program to establish a systemized nationwide STEMI program. That is a big challenge.

Biography

Ryan Del Rosario Buendia has completed his medical school in De la Salle University in the Philippines. He finished his Adult Cardiology training and Interventional Cardiology training in St. Luke's Medical Center Global City. He further trained in Cardiovascular Institute, Tokyo, Japan and in Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung, Taiwan for peripheral interventions. He also had training in Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenator (ECMO) management in La Pitie'-Salpetriere University hospital in Paris, France. He is currently an assistant training officer in Interventional Cardiology in his institution. He is a member of the STEMI Committee of the Philippine Society of Cardiac Catheterizations and Interventions.

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